

each of X^1 and X^2 , independently, is O or S;

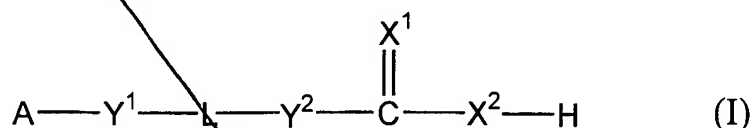
each of Y^1 and Y^2 , independently, is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^b)-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b , independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkylloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further being optionally interrupted by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^c)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^c)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^c)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^c)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^d)-$, or $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$; each of R^c and R^d , independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, hydroxyl, or haloalkyl; provided that when L contains two or more double bonds, the double bonds are not adjacent to each other; that when L contains three double bonds, said hydrocarbon chain is further substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, C_{3-5} cycloalkyl, 3-5 membered heterocycloalkyl, monocyclic aryl, 5-6 membered heteroaryl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyloxy, C_{1-4} alkylloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4} alkylcarbonyl, or formyl; and further provided that when L contains zero, one, or two conjugated double bonds and A is C_{1-4} alkyl phenyl or unsubstituted phenyl, Y^1 is not a bond or CH_2 , and Y^2 is not a bond or CH_2 ;

or a salt thereof.

--13. (Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein A is phenyl optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyl, hydroxylalkyl, halo, haloalkyl, or amino.--

--22. (Amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein

A is a cyclic moiety selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl; the cyclic moiety being optionally substituted with alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, hydroxylalkyl, or amino;

each of X^1 and X^2 , independently, is O or S;

each of Y^1 and Y^2 , independently, is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^a)-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{N}(\text{R}^b)-$, $-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-$, or a bond; each of R^a and R^b , independently, being hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

L is a straight C_{3-12} hydrocarbon chain optionally containing at least one double bond, at least one triple bond, or at least one double bond and one triple bond; said hydrocarbon chain being optionally substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, or amino, and further optionally interrupted by $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{N}(\text{R}^c)-$, where R^c is hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxylalkyl, or haloalkyl; provided that when L contains two or more double bonds, the double bonds are not adjacent to each other; that when L contains three double bonds, said hydrocarbon chain is substituted with C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, or amino; and further provided that when L contains zero, one, or two conjugated double bonds and A is C_{1-4} alkyl phenyl or unsubstituted phenyl, Y^1 is not a bond or CH_2 , and Y^2 is not a bond or CH_2 ;

or a salt thereof.

C4